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ABSTRACT

In order to investigate administrative, financial, and staffing patterns in county jails, the Maine State Library surveyed 45 state library agencies. The specific use of funds and the total number of responses are included in statistical tables. Results from individual states have been categorized, and the survey questionnaire is included. (DS)

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Library Service in County Jails.

Cynthia Angelides and
Karen Berg

Maine State Library

August 1975

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of
Educational and Cultural Services

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State Librarian

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Tel. 207-289-3561

Dear

Thank you for your interest in our jail survey.

Enclosed are copies of the questionnaire on library service in county jails and the report of the results. We would appreciate any comments or suggestions you might have.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Angelides
Cynthia Angelides
Head of Special Services

Karen Berg
Karen Berg
Institutional Library
Consultant

CA:KB:emd
Enc.

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of
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To: Heads of State Library Agencies

From: Cynthia Angelides, Head of Special Services
Karen Berg, Institutional Library Consultant

In an attempt to initiate new programs and evaluate existing ones, the Special Services Division of the Maine State Library would like information in the following two areas:

A) County jails -- While some jails have minimal library service, it is increasingly apparent that more is needed. We are therefore considering the possibility of a federally funded county jail library project.

B) Institutional libraries -- (1) The role of the institutional consultant. (2) Institutional librarians-alternate methods of employment.

Your cooperation in responding to the attached questionnaire would be greatly appreciated.

Part A: County Jails

1. Do any county jails in your state have library service?
   Yes_____
   No _____
   If yes, please complete the following:

2. How are the jail libraries financed, by gifts from organizations such as the Jaycees, grants from foundations or federal, state or county funds?

3. Were any funds used for capital expenditures such as lighting, furniture, painting and/or remodeling as well as for print and non-print materials?

4. Was the county jail project begun as a pilot project involving one or two libraries or was service begun in all jails simultaneously?

5. Are any of the jails served by public libraries in their community?

6. Who administers the library program, inmates, members of the public library staff, personnel from the sheriff's department, volunteers or a combination of these groups?

7. What types of service are offered by the jail library or the public library? Reference including legal reference service, reading guidance, tutorial programs, exhibits, discussion groups and film programs?

Part B: Institutional Libraries

1. What is the role of the institutional library consultant? What should it be?

The special services division at the Maine State Library is interested in establishing statewide jail library service. To that end, research has been done on jail library projects to learn what kinds of administrative, financial, and staffing patterns have been attempted. We would particularly commend the September 1974 issue of Illinois Libraries for its excellent coverage of the field, noting as it does projects that have failed as well as those that were successful. A questionnaire was prepared to obtain more specific knowledge about jail library services and sent to 49 state library agencies and to the District of Columbia. We were pleased by the good return with 45 out of 50 agencies responding. Statewide surveys sent to us by Arkansas and Colorado revealed a considerable variation in the services offered and confirmed what we had read - that library service to county jails are for the most part inadequate and uneven. The basic conclusion reached from this survey is that the right to read is denied to most county jail inmates.

A brief questionnaire was designed as it was felt that this would insure a higher rate of return. The results that have been compiled are based on information received from 36 states who reported that some of their county jails have library services. Five states reported that none of their county jails had library services while five others reported that their county jails had been made a part of the state correctional system. Vermont has been counted twice as it has several jails as well as some state operated correctional centers. The brevity, however, resulted in problems of interpretation particularly with regard to questions #2 and #3. Our chief interest in question #2 was to learn whether funds had been used for capital expenditures such as lighting and furniture etc. A small number of states specifically indicated how funds had been used. In most cases the question was answered simply yes or no. Twenty-six states reported that funds had been used for the jail library services. Of these only a few states mentioned that funds had been used for either capital expenditures or salaries; therefore, we would presume that most of the funding has gone for print or non-print materials. However, it is impossible to determine whether respondents were answering one or both parts of the question. The results have been compiled in two ways: noting the total number of responses and noting the specific purpose for which the funds have been used. Two questions rather than one covering the use of funds would have reduced the number of ambiguous responses.

In question three, the word project is used twice. (Responses to this question were in some instances difficult to interpret.) As written it seems to imply that any library service to a jail would be called a project. A better wording of the question would have been, "Was the county jail library service begun as a pilot project..." Many states reported that none of their jails had pilot projects while others seemed to hold the view, as the question implied, that any jail library service could be called a project. Pilot project was used by respondents to describe a variety of programs that had either been funded by federal, or state, or county or public library funds as well as projects that had not been funded. A categorization of the types of programs would have made the interpretation of the results easier and verbatim reporting of the responses would have involved much more space as well as being time consuming. Since library services are universally uneven it should come as no surprise that library programs have not been established on a simultaneous basis. Most library services were begun on the initiative of the local library.

To conserve space, the questions were phrased in general terms and therefore responses tended to be general rather than specific. The unevenness of library services is reflected in the responses to questions #2-4 and #6-7. Nearly all the possible responses to each question apply to some of the jails in each state. For example, many respondents noted that the types of services offered varied from jail to jail. Some states chose to list only the most common form of financing and administration used as well as the services most frequently offered while others gave information about all the different jail libraries operating within their state. A check off system would have provided a more complete picture of the jail programs in each state. However, this would have meant not only a longer questionnaire but quite possibly a lower rate of return. In terms of the possible responses our conception in the areas of library finances and library services proved to be too narrow.

Inevitably there are some questions we wished we had asked and did not. For example, what is the number of jails in each state and of that number how many have library service. Some states have both city and county jails, do the services to these facilities vary. How much space is provided for the library. What is the average daily census as well as the average length of sentence. We hope, however, that the information we have gathered will be useful in giving a picture of the state of the art and that others may be able to expand on our findings. A periodic review of jail library programs would provide not only an exchange of information but also provide a gauge on the progress being made in this area of library services.

Cynthia Angelides
Head of Special Services

Karen Berg
Institutional Library Consultant

1. How are the county jails financed?

A.	county funds	15
	federal funds	14
	city, county or public library funds	10
	state funds	9
	gifts	7
	no funding	6
	local appropriations not specified as to whether city or county funds	2
	not applicable	2
	city funds	1
	jail funds	1
	private foundation funds	1
	unknown	1

B. Types of Federal Funds

LSCA	7
LEAA (called Law Enforcement Assistance Program in South Carolina)	3
Revenue Sharing	1

2. Were any funds used for capital expenditures such as lighting, furniture, painting and/or remodeling as well as for print and non-print materials.

Note: Only a couple of states noted that some of the funds were used for salaries.

	Yes	No	Not applicable
A. Capital Expenditures	15	15	6
B. Print and non-print materials	11	19	6

C. Types of capital expenditures

*	Remodeling (includes renovation)	5
	Furniture	3
	Shelving	3
	Lighting	2
**	Paint	2
	Book Trucks	1

* Remodeling done at county expense at one jail, by the jail itself in another instance.

** Paint was provided by the jail in another instance.

3. Was the county jail project begun as a pilot project involving one or two libraries or was service begun in all jails simultaneously?

Below are listed the different types of projects that were reported.

Type of Project		No. of States
Federally funded		5
County and public library funded	*	4
State funded		1
Unidentified		1

* One program was begun with LSCA funds, another by a library school.

3. (cont)

One state reported that in grant financed programs, service is usually begun in all jails simultaneously by providing service through existing library systems. All other states reported that services have begun on an individual basis.

4. Are any of the jails served by public libraries in their community?

(Since the type of library offering service varied from community to community we have listed all the types of libraries presently offering service)

Type of Library	No. of States
Public libraries	27
County libraries (including bookmobile service and city/county libraries)	11
Regional library system	5
State library (including bookmobile service)	4

5. Who administers the library program?

(In some instances after giving the response "combined supervision," the other responses that make up "combined supervision" were also noted, for example, combined supervision - inmates and public library staff)

Types of Supervision	No. of States
Public library staff	20
Combined supervision	17
Sheriff's dept. personnel (includes jailor & police)	12
County library staff	9
Inmates	7
Volunteers	7
State Library	3

6. What types of service are offered by the jail library or the public library? Reference including legal reference service, reading guidance, tutorial programs, exhibits, discussion groups and film programs?

Types of Service	No. of States
Circulation of library materials (includes loan of materials and recreational reading)	19
Legal reference	17
Reading guidance	15
Reference (includes information)	14
Tutorial programs (includes GED tests and learning to read)	13
Film programs	11
Interlibrary loan (includes filling specific requests)	8
Discussion groups	7
Deposit collection (includes long term bulk loan)	6
Exhibits	5
Book catalogs and lists	2
Copying services	2

Single responses were given for the following services: infirmary, listening group, orientation, puzzles and right to read activity.

STATE	FUNDING SOURCES	FUNDS USED FOR CAP. EXPEND.	FUNDS USED FOR PRINT & NON PRINT MATERIALS	PILOT PROJECT	LIBR INIT PUBL STAT
ALABAMA	Gifts, Federal funds, State funds				Publi
ARIZONA	No funding	Not applicable	Not applicable		Count (Serv jail libra disco
ARKANSAS	Gifts, County funds, State funds, LSCA funds, Library budgets			2 Federally funded projects	Publi
CALIFORNIA	Library budgets Private Foundation	Sheriff's Dept. provice section 26151 of Calif. Gov't code authorizes expenditures for jail library services	Print material	Project by Library School at the University of Calif. at Berkley being continued by San Francisco Public Library	Coun Publi Bookm
COLORADO	Gifts, Federal funds, local appropriation, State funds, requests being made for county funds	Paint provided by jail library equipment	Books, Library Materials, Magazines		Publi

UNDS USED FOR RINT & NON PRINT ATERIALS	PILOT PROJECT	LIBRARY SERVICES INITIATED BY COUNTY, PUBLIC, REGIONAL OR STATE LIBRARY	SUPERVISION OF LIBRARY SERVICES	TYPES OF SERVICES
		Public Library	Combined Supervision	Reference, Legal reference, Reading guidance, Tutorial program, Exhibits Discussion groups, Film programs
pplicable	—	County Library (Service to another jail by a public library has been discontinued)	County Library Bookmobile Driver	Circulation of library materials
	2 Federally funded projects	Public Library	Combined supervision - Public library staff, Sheriff's Dept. personnel, Police, Jailor, Volunteers	Circulation of library materials, legal reference, tutorial programs
material	Project by Library School at the University of Calif. at Berkley being continued by San Francisco Public Library	County Library Public Library Bookmobile	Combined supervision - County library, Bookmobile, Inmates Public Library staff	Copying service, legal reference, infirmary service, tutorial programs, circulation of library materials
Library Materials, nes		Public Library	Combined supervision, Volunteers Sheriff's Dept. personnel	Legal reference, Reference, Reading guidance, Tutorial programs, Exhibits, Film programs, Discussion groups

STATE	FUNDING SOURCES	FUNDS USED FOR CAP. EXPENDITURES	FUNDS USED FOR PRINT & NON-PRINT MATERIALS	PILOT PROJECT	LIBR INIT PUBL STAT
FLORIDA	Public Library funds		Print Materials	Some grant program	Publ
IDAHO	No funding	Not applicable	Not applicable		Publ
ILLINOIS	LSCA funds Ill. Law Enforcement Commission funds, Ill. State Lib. funds, Ill. Dept. of Corrections	Remodeling done at county expense	Print & Non-Print material	LSCA Project ILEC Project	Stat Regi syst
INDIANA	No funding	Remodeling and lighting done with jail funds			Publ
KANSAS	Public Library funds				Publ

USED FOR & NON-PRINT ALS	PILOT PROJECT	LIBRARY SERVICES INITIATED BY COUNTY, PUBLIC, REGIONAL OR STATE LIBRARY	SUPERVISION OF LIBRARY SERVICES	TYPES OF SERVICES
Materials	Some grant program	Public Library	Public Library staff	Reading guidance Film programs
plicable		Public Library	Combined supervision - Public Library staff, Inmates, Sheriff Dept. personnel	Circulation of Library Materials
Non-Print material	LSCA Project ILEC Project	State Library Regional Library system	Regional Library personnel, Inmates	Orientation, Reading guidance, Information, Reference, Book lists, Recreational material, Tutorial programs, Legal reference. Long term bulk loans, Listening groups, Discussion groups, Exhibits, Film programs, Interlibrary loan. Specific subject request
		Public Library	Combined supervision - Public Library staff, Sheriff's Dept. personnel	Circulation of Library Materials
		Public Library	Combined supervision - Public Library staff, Sheriff's Dept. personnel	Circulation of Library Materials

STATE	FUNDING SOURCES	FUNDS USED FOR CAP. EXPENDITURES	FUNDS USED FOR PRINT & NON-PRINT MATERIALS	PILOT PROJECT	LIBI INIT PUBI STA
KENTUCKY	No funding	Not applicable	Not applicable		Coun
LOUISIANA	Parish (County) funds, Parish jail funds	Shelving Tables	Print Material		Pari
MAINE	County funds, Federal funds	Painting Shelving	Print Materials		Publ
MARYLAND	County funds	Yes	Yes		Publ
MASSA-CHUSETTS	County funds LSCA funds	Furniture Renovation	Print Materials	2 LSCA projects	Publ Regi syst
MICHIGAN	County funds Federal funds State funds			Unanswered	Publ Regi Stat
MINNESOTA	Not applicable			County Library Public Library projects	Publ Coun

USED FOR & NON-PRINT ALS	PILOT PROJECT	LIBRARY SERVICES INITIATED BY COUNTY, PUBLIC, REGIONAL OR STATE LIBRARY	SUPERVISION OF LIBRARY SERVICES	TYPES OF SERVICES
licable		County Library	County Library Bookmobile	Circulation of Library Materials
terial		Parish Library	Combined supervision - Inmates, Parish Library staff	Legal reference, Reference, Reading guidance
terials		Public Library	Combined supervision - Inmates, Sheriff's Dept. personnel, Public Library Staff	Legal Reference, Reading guidance Tutorial programs Film Service
		Public Library	Combined supervision	Services Vary
terials	2 LSCA projects	Public Library Regional Library system	Combined supervision	Reference, Legal Reference, Reading guidance, Tutorial programs, Copy Service, Possibly a typewriter
	Unanswered	Public Library Regional Library State Library	Combined supervision - Public Library staff, Regional Library staff, State Library staff	Reference, Legal reference, Reading guidance, GED tests, Discussion groups, Film programs
	County Library Public Library projects	Public Library County Library	Public Library staff	Circulation of Library Materials, Right to read activity reading guidance, Reference

STATE	FUNDING SOURCES	FUNDS USED FOR CAP. EXPENDITURES	FUNDS USED FOR PRINT & NON-PRINT MATERIAL	PILOT PROJECT	LIBRARY INITIAT PUBLIC, STATE L
MISSISSIPPI	County funds State funds				Public
MISSOURI	Gifts Public Library funds		Print Materials		Public
MONTANA	Unknown presumed to be from a city or county library budget				Public
NEVADA	No funding	Not applicable	Not applicable		County Book tr
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Not applicable				Public State L Bookmob
NEW JERSEY	Gifts, LSCA funds, Public Library funds, State funds, (SLRPA funds)	Furniture	Print & Non-Print Materials	3 LSCA projects	County Public
NEW MEXICO	Unanswered	Not applicable	Not applicable		State L

ED FOR ION-PRINT	PILOT PROJECT	LIBRARY SERVICES INITIATED BY COUNTY, PUBLIC, REGIONAL OR STATE LIBRARY	SUPERVISION OF LIBRARY SERVICES	TYPES OF SERVICES
		Public Library	Public Library staff	Deposit collections Occasional visits Special requests filled
erials		Public Library	Public Library staff, Sheriff's Dept. personnel Inmates	Legal reference (limited) Reading guidance, Tutorial program, puzzles, filling requests for specific books
		Public Library	Combined supervision	Deposit collections Film program, Filling specific requests
able		County Library Book truck	County Library staff	Circulation of Library Materials
		Public Library State Library Bookmobile	Public Library staff, State Library staff	Circulation of Library Materials, Legal reference
n-Print Materials	3 LSCA projects	County Library Public Library	Combined supervision - County Library staff, Sheriff's Dept. personnel	Reference, Legal reference, Reading guidance, Tutorial programs, Exhibits, Discussion groups, Film programs, Interlibrary loans, Deposit collections
able		State Library	State Library Bookmobile	Circulation of Library Materials

STATE	FUNDING SOURCES	FUNDS USED FOR CAP. EXPENDITURES	FUNDS USED FOR PRINT & NON-PRINT MATERIALS	PILOT PROJECT	LIBRA INITIA PUBLIC STATE
NEW YORK	County Funds State Funds	Book trucks Shelving	Print & Non-Print Materials	Originally an LSCA operated by Buffalo & Erie County Public Library now funded by county	County Public Regiona
OHIO	Unanswered				Public
OKLAHOMA	Gifts, City and County Library budget				City/C
OREGON	City funds County funds LSCA funds			4 LSCA projects during FY 75	Public
PENN-SYLVANIA	Gifts Library budget, Local Appropriations LEAA	Yes			Public
SOUTH CAROLINA	County funds LEAP grants Revenue Sharing				Public

ED FOR NON-PRINT S	PILOT PROJECT	LIBRARY SERVICES INITIATED BY COUNTY, PUBLIC, REGIONAL OR STATE LIBRARY	SUPERVISION OF LIBRARY SERVICES	TYPES OF SERVICES
Non-Print Materials	Originally an LSCA operated by Buffalo & Erie County Public Library now funded by county	County Library Public Library Regional Library	Volunteers, Sheriff's Dept., Public Library staff, County Library, Bookmobile	Film programs, Deposit collection, Discussion groups Tutorial programs Reference, Reading guidance, Legal reference, Interlibrary loan, Book catalog service
		Public Library	Public Library staff	Deposit collection Filling specific requests, Legal reference
		City/County Library	City/County Library staff, Volunteers	Circulation of Library Materials, Filling specific requests
	4 LSCA projects during FY 75	Public Library	Combined supervision	Circulation of Library Materials Information
		Public Library	Combined supervision - Volunteers, Public Library staff	Reference, Film programs, Legal reference, Discussion groups, Reading guidance, Tutorial programs, Exhibits
		Public Library	Public Library staff, Volunteers	Circulation of Library Materials

STATE	FUNDING SOURCES	FUNDS USED FOR CAP. EXPENDITURES	FUNDS USED FOR PRINT & NON-PRINT MATERIALS	PILOT PROJECT	LIBRARY INITIATED PUBLIC, STATE
VERMONT	No funding	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	(Former) Library
WASHINGTON	Contracted County funds Public Library funds	YES			Public
WEST VIRGINIA	County funds LEAA funds Public Library Grants	Remodeling			County
WISCONSIN	LSCA funds (Application being made for LEAA funds)	Remodeling			Public

ED FOR NON-PRINT S	PILOT PROJECT	LIBRARY SERVICES INITIATED BY COUNTY, PUBLIC, REGIONAL OR STATE LIBRARY	SUPERVISION OF LIBRARY SERVICES	TYPES OF SERVICES
icable	Not applicable	(Formerly) Public Library	Sheriff's Dept.	Circulation of Library Materials - (Chiefly newspapers & periodicals)
		Public Library	Public Library staff	Services vary. Majority provide circulation of Library Materials, Reference, Reading guidance
		County Library	County Library staff, Sheriff's Dpet.	Services varies Legal reference Circulation of Library Materials
		Public Library	Combined supervision - Public Library staff	Reference Legal Reference Reading guidance